

*Partnering Children with
Dogs to Read --*

Literacy Magic!

You Want to Do What?

“How can reading to a dog help?”

“Dogs in the library, what a mess!”

“Dogs are not that well behaved to be in the library”

“People have allergies”

Dissenters and Responses

Dogs are messy

- All therapy dogs must be groomed before visits.
- Handlers are required to bring a blanket or rug for dogs to sit on or the library may provide this.

Dissenters and Responses

Allergies in the library

- Yes, some are allergic to dogs. Depending on the dog breed, some are less likely to cause allergies.
- Inform parents of dog reading days so that they can avoid visiting the library on these days.

Dissenters and Responses

Bad Behavior

- Therapy dogs are tested to ensure that the dog's temperament
- Dogs who are certified, carry an insurance policy

Why Dogs?

- Dogs provide an uncritical audience, boosting children's reading confidence.
- Children feel safe and reassured cuddled up with a dog. This makes a great environment for reading.

Why Dogs?

- Kids love being with dogs. When they read to a dog, that positive emotion becomes associated with reading.
- Knowing a dog friend is waiting for them provides an incentive to make regular visits to the library.

Benefits to Reading

- Make reading fun and kids will learn to read.
- Positive effect on children with attention difficulties, disruptive behavior, and a lack of interest in reading.

Why Dogs

When asked who they talk to when they get upset, children respond . . .

A Pet!

Benefits of Therapy Dogs

In Hospitals:

Patients who refuse to speak, will talk to dogs

Patients who do not move, will reach for dogs

Physical Benefits

Chemistry Changes:

- Increased levels of endorphins, the body's natural painkillers, while levels of cortisol, a stress and arousal hormone, dropped.

Physical Changes

- Lower Blood Pressure
- Lower Heart Rate
- Lower Anxiety

Getting Started

- Interest in Participating in Therapy Dog Program
- Tips for Staff
- Orientation for Volunteers

Things to Consider

- Ensure that all dogs participating are certified Therapy Dogs. The organization that they belong to provides an insurance policy.
- Planning the best time for the program. Afternoons, after school is best, unless you are promoting to Homeschoolers.

It's All In the Name

- Read to Your Breed
- PAWS to Read
- Pawsitive Reading with Therapy Dogs
- Tail Waggin' Tutors
- Read to Rover

Where to Find Dogs

These are some, but not all organizations that certify dogs

- www.deltasociety.org – Delta Society
- www.therapydogs.com – Therapy Dogs, Inc
- www.loveonaleash.org – Love on a Leash
- www.tdi-dog.org – Therapy Dogs International

To Sign Up or Not Sign Up

- Some libraries prefer an informal drop in method, while other prefer to have sign-ups.
- Sign ups can be done in advance of the day or children can pick up a ticket with their reading time on the day of the program.

To Sign Up or Not to Sign Up

- Pros

- Helps limit the number of kids trying to read to the dog at one time
- Give the kids ownership of a time and they are more likely to return, especially with a reminder call.

To Sign up or not to sign up

- Cons

- Some will cancel or not show up which leaves the dog with no one to read.
- A little more work with keeping up the sign up and reminder call.

Incentives Keep 'em Coming

- Kids get a free book for every 10 books that they read.

OR

- Kids get a free book for every 10 visits.

Location, Location, Location

- Well lit area
- Private Area
- Comfortable

Promotion

- To help maintain high attendance, promotion is key.
- Work with your area schools.

La Mesa Library

Read To Your Breed

- Kids sign up in advance to read to the dog for 15 minutes
- Staff call the kids to remind them about their reading time.
- Kids get a free book for every 10 books they read.

Reminder Card

Text Box

Read to Your Breed at the
San Diego County
Library—La Mesa Branch
619 469.2151








Zachary is scheduled
to read to Sunny

Wed, Oct 28th at 4:00 pm

Frequent Reader Card

*Read to Your Breed @ The San Diego
County Library — La Mesa Branch*

Frequent Reader Card

When you have completed reading ten books, you will receive a book of your choice to keep.

Name Zachary



Lakeside PAWS to Read

- Children are encouraged to sign up, but we also accept drop ins
- Kids get a free book for every five books they read

Frequent Reader Card

P WS To Read

Read 5 books to one of our therapy dogs and earn a free book to keep!

Readers Name: Marisela

- I read one book to _____ Date _____
- I read one book to _____ Date _____
- I read one book to _____ Date _____
- I read one book to _____ Date _____
- I read one book to _____ Date _____

Improve your reading skills by reading to a friendly dog,
every Friday at 3:30, at Lakeside Library.

Call the library to sign up and get more information. 619-443-1811
Lakeside Library 9839 Vine St, Lakeside CA 92040



Reverse side of card

P WS To Read

Read 5 books to one of our therapy dogs and earn a free book to keep!

Young readers can improve their reading skills by reading to a friendly dog, every Friday at 3:30, at Lakeside Library. Call the library to sign up and get more information. 619-443-1811



Lakeside Library 9839 Vine St, Lakeside CA
92040

Final Thoughts

“I think we’re just at the tip of the iceberg in terms of what we know about the human-animal bond and its potential health benefits. This area is primed for a lot of research that still needs to be done.”

-from *NIH News in Health* (February 2009)

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